

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 and 26-28 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-23 stand rejected. Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 14 are amended. Claims 26-28 are added. Support for the amendments and additions can be found in the originally filed Specification at Figure 1 and Figure 4 (where the projects database 22 of Fig. 4 is the local database 22 of Fig. 1), and at [0023]-[0031]. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner objects to the recitation in claims 1 and 14 of “a website providing a collaborative environment resource allowing users to interact, including working on projects together.” Applicants have amended claims 1 and 14 to remove this limitation.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, and 7-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Rofrano (U.S. Pat. No. 6,035,283) in view of “Service Equals Sales,” and DoltYourself.com. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rofrano is generally directed toward a virtual sales person for electronic catalogue. In particular, the Examiner relies on Rofrano to teach an expert system that queries the shopper about the product, about themselves, and how they plan to use the product, and uses a relational database that relates answers to product features of

selected products. However, Rofrano does not teach, suggest, or motivate a master database of products which contains information about the products, their specifications, and detailed engineering data, a products database server serving contents of the master database over a network, and a product finder server connected to an expert system and a projects database, in which the product finder server receives an information subset about products and relevant specifications from the product database server that excludes the detailed engineering data, and stores information of the subset in the projects database.

Service Equals Sales is generally directed toward increasing sales by providing service. In particular, the Examiner relies on Service to teach that sales persons at Home Depot™ obtain extensive training in knowledge of tools and their uses in particular projects. However, Service Equals Sales does not teach, suggest, or motivate a master database of products which contains information about the products, their specifications, and detailed engineering data, a products database server serving contents of the master database over a network, and a product finder server connected to an expert system and a projects database, in which the product finder server receives an information subset about products and relevant specifications from the product database server that excludes the detailed engineering data, and stores information of the subset in the projects database.

DoltYourself.com is a web site that provides a community forum with a user interface for people to specify their projects. However, DoltYourself.com does not teach, suggest, or motivate a master database of products which contains information about the products, their specifications, and detailed engineering data, a products

database server serving contents of the master database over a network, and a product finder server connected to an expert system and a projects database, in which the product finder server receives an information subset about products and relevant specifications from the product database server that excludes the detailed engineering data, and stores information of the subset in the projects database.

Applicants' claimed invention is generally directed toward a networked product selection system. In particular, Applicants' claimed invention is directed toward a master database of products which contains information about the products, their specifications, and detailed engineering data, a products database server serving contents of the master database over a network, and a product finder server connected to an expert system and a projects database, in which the product finder server receives an information subset about products and relevant specifications from the product database server that excludes the detailed engineering data, and stores information of the subset in the projects database. For example, independent claims 1 and 14, especially as amended, recite, "a master database of products which contains information about the products, their specifications, and detailed engineering data, ... a products database server serving contents of the master database over a network ... and ...a product finder server connected to said expert system and said projects database, said product finder server receiving an information subset about products and relevant specifications from said product database server that excludes the detailed engineering data, and storing information of the subset in said projects database." Support for the amendments can be found in the originally filed Specification at Figure 1 and Figure 4 (where the projects database 22 of Fig. 4 is the local database 22 of Fig.

1), and at [0023]-[0031]. Therefore, Rofrano, Service Equals Sales, and DoltYourself.com do not teach all of the limitations of the independent claims. These differences are significant because selective dissemination of contents of the master database over the network allows the master database to serve as a central repository of all product information for multiple servers providing different kinds of services, with changes to the contents of the master server being reflected quickly and automatically in databases of the other servers.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of independent claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), along with rejection on these grounds of all claims dependent therefrom.

Claims 3-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious over Rofrano (U.S. Pat. No. 6,035,283) in view of "Service Equals Sales," DoltYourself.com, and Microsoft Computer Dictionary. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As detailed above, Rofrano, Service Equals Sales, and DoltYourself.com fail to teach, suggest, or motivate a master database of products which contains information about the products, their specifications, and detailed engineering data, a products database server serving contents of the master database over a network, and a product finder server connected to an expert system and a projects database, in which the product finder server receives an information subset about products and relevant specifications from the product database server that excludes the detailed engineering data, and stores information of the subset in the projects database.

The Examiner relies upon Microsoft Computer Dictionary to teach distributed computer systems. However, Microsoft Computer Dictionary fails to teach, suggest, or

motivate a master database of products which contains information about the products, their specifications, and detailed engineering data, a products database server serving contents of the master database over a network, and a product finder server connected to an expert system and a projects database, in which the product finder server receives an information subset about products and relevant specifications from the product database server that excludes the detailed engineering data, and stores information of the subset in the projects database.


Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on their dependence from allowable base claim 1.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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